

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY
MAYOR



CITY HALL
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
TEL:(201) 547-5200
FAX:(201) 547-4288

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 19, 2011

Contact: Jennifer Morrill
Press Secretary
201-547-4836
201-376-0699

Mayor Healy to Honor Dr. Lager and Dr. Gonzalez of Gotham City Orthopedics

***Doctors Founded 'Cleared To Play.Org, Inc' to Raise Awareness of
Concussions and to Encourage Baselines Testing for Student Athletes***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy will honor **Dr. Sean Lager** and **Dr. Orlando Gonzalez** of **Gotham City Orthopedics, LLC** at 3 p.m. on **Wednesday, July 20, 2011** at **City Hall, 280 Grove Street**. **Drs. Lager and Gonzalez** founded ***Cleared To Play.Org, Inc.***, a non-profit organization whose mission is to raise awareness of concussion prevention and treatment, and provide appropriate medical support for local high school and college athletes.

“Our children’s safety is our priority,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Unfortunately, concussions and sports related injuries occur, and these tests are crucial to protecting them and ensuring the safety and well being of the student athletes.”

The New Jersey Department of Education has mandated that each local school district adopt a protocol and plan for educating and credentialing their staff and students on concussion awareness and management. On December 7, 2010, Governor Chris Christie signed the *New Jersey Comprehensive Concussion Safety Bill* which requires each school district in the state to develop a policy for prevention and treatment of sports-related head injuries for their athletes. Each athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion will be removed from play and must be cleared by a medical professional prior to returning to sports.

Many high schools do not have ImPact testing available for their athletes, yet these schools sponsor sports programs in which concussions often occur. These schools either do not have funding for ImPact testing or the facilities to administer the tests. Through *Cleared To Play*, **Dr. Lager** and **Dr. Gonzalez** are committed to raising funds so that these athletes may obtain access to this state-of-the-art technology. **Dr. Lager** and **Dr. Gonzalez** work tirelessly with local school athletic programs to implement these protocols, promote concussion prevention, and treatment awareness.

(more)

“I am grateful for **Dr. Lager and Dr. Gonzalez** for taking the initiative to building partnerships with our schools,” **said Mayor Healy**. “Their initiative raises awareness of the seriousness of concussions in youth sports, and stresses the importance of baseline testing.”

Cleared To Play.Org, Inc. is committed to educating parents, coaches, and student athletes on the benefits of ImPACT testing. **Dr. Lager** and his associate, **Dr. Gonzalez**, work with several local high schools and college teams. Both physicians are certified with ImPact, a proprietary neurocognitive testing company used in professional sports, which measures 8 different types of brain function which is used in assessment as to whether or not a player has returned to pre-injury status and can return to play.

“We want to do everything we can to protect these young athletes, said **Dr. Lager**. “Informing the coaches and the parents is the first step, but we need to do more and these tests can gauge students’ cognitive functions before and after concussions in order to better understand the effects of a head injury and determine when it is safe for your child to return to play.”

In August of this year, **Dr. Lager** and **Dr. Gonzalez** will offer baseline tests to students enrolled in their school’s athletic programs throughout Jersey City. The participating Jersey City schools are: Dickinson High School, Ferris High School, Lincoln High School, McNair High School, Snyder High School, University Charter High School, St. Anthony High School, St. Peter's Preparatory School, St. Mary High School, and St. Dominic Academy in addition to various schools throughout Hudson County.

About Gotham City Orthopedics, LLC

Gotham City Orthopedics, LLC, a sports medicine NJ practice, which provides the immediate attention and state-of-the-art equipment needed to achieve the best possible recovery, including arthroscopic and minimally invasive management of sports related injuries for children and adults, as well as for severe trauma victims; and

Gotham City Orthopedics has four locations servicing the northern New Jersey area. With offices in Jersey City, Clifton, Newark, and Englewood, each location provides its patients with the utmost care and takes into consideration each patient's individual background and educates patients on treatment options to make them part of the decision making process

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699. ///